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(See Below)

THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN

VOL. 2



CALGARY, APRIL 12, 1918

Price 5 cents per copy. No. 10

LIFE'S HIGHEST IDEAL

I live for those who love me, for those
who know me true,
For the Heaven that smiles above me
and awaits my spirit too.
For all human ties that bind me,
For the task my God assigns me,
For the bright hopes left behind me
And the good that I can do.

I live to learn their story who suffered
for my sake.
To emulate their glory, and follow in
their wake,
Bards, patriots, martyrs, sages,
The noble of all ages,
Whose deeds crown History's pages,
And Time's great volume make.

I live to hold communion with all
that is divine,
To feel there is a union twixt Nature's
heart and mine;
To profit by affliction,
Reap truths from fields of fiction,
Grow wiser by conviction,
Fulfil each grand design.

I live to hail the season by gifted men
foretold,
When man shall live by reason, and
not alone by gold.
When man to man united,
And every wrong thing righted,
This whole world shall be lighted
As Eden was of old.

I live for those who love me, whose
hearts are kind and true,
For the Heaven that smiles above me
and awaits my spirit too.
For the cause that needs assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.

—By an Unknown Author.

THINGS WE HATE TO THINK ABOUT!

"Graft" in a "shell."

* * *

And the Union Government "shelling
out"!

* * *

A deaf officer deluding R. B. Bennett.

* * *

What Jim Weir found in the big book.

* * *

"Shell" profits and where they go!

* * *

"Politics" in Canada as revealed at the
Bailey trial.

* * *

The City Council raising the big salaries.

* * *

Quibbling over the small ones.

* * *

The City Solicitor's estimate of the
"real" value of a dollar.

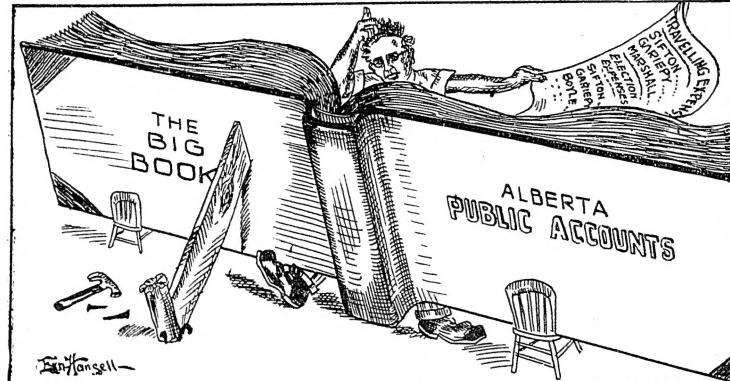
WHO SOLD THE WEST.

"Why stop at removing the duty on
farm tractors? Give the farmers free
implements and they will do their part.
If you want increased production, it
is the logical thing to do. Appeals to farm-
ers to produce more will fall on deaf ears
unless the Government does its part."—
DR. MICHAEL CLARK, of Red Deer, at
Ottawa.

* * *

"I understood that the Union Govern-
ment was to allow all such questions to
stand in abeyance during the war. If the
Union Government proposes to meddle
seriously with the tariff, it is breaking
what we understood was an agreement
that these matters should stand in
abeyance during the war."—W. F.
COCKSHUTT, of Brantford, at Ottawa.

JAS. WEIR LOOKS UP PAST RECORDS!



THE SEARCHLIGHT ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES
READ ARTICLE PAGE 8

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The Alberta Non-Partisan

3

CURRENT HISTORY

POLITICS IN CANADA

Some time ago a correspondent of THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN wrote suggesting that while we had from time to time made insinuations regarding political life in Canada, we lacked proof and had never come out boldly giving dates, figures and facts to prove the insinuations we had made.

There are some things that are known and yet are extremely difficult to prove. A person may be as positive as it is possible to be in regard to certain political facts, and yet it may be more than difficult to prove the case. We may be aware of the fact that some men enter political life without any particular financial worth, they leave it with fortunes. The facts are beyond contradiction. We may give names and dates, but the Bailey trial has proved that discretion is often the better part of valor and there are many editors in this country who are walking free to-day, who might be out on suspended sentence or under worse punishment if they had plainly stated obvious inferences from certain facts known to them!

Apparently among leaders of the old line parties the opinion exists that Campaign funds should come from those who have contracts with the Government. In examination of witnesses which took place in the Bennett-Bailey trial, Mr. John Edward Davies, Manager of a shell company in Medicine Hat, made the following statements when under examination by J. J. Macdonald:

Q. Do you know Mr. Brown of Medicine Hat?

A. I do.

Q. The present mayor of Medicine Hat?

A. That is Mr. M. A. Brown.

Q. Yes?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything about certain people in Medicine Hat being approached by him, together with certain other parties to contribute any money towards any fund?

A. I know of no one outside of myself. Q. Pardon me?

A. I know of no one outside of myself. I know nothing of the other companies.

Q. Well, in what capacity— Do you say that Mr. Brown approached you?

A. Mr. Brown did not.

Q. Who did?

A. Dr. Smythe spoke to me about the matter.

Q. In what capacity did Dr. Smythe serve when he approached you with reference to contributing?

A. He said he represented a certain political party which I do not think he fully represented.

Q. What political party?

A. The Conservative Association.

Q. And what did he want?

A. He said that in view of the fact that their members had assisted greatly in securing orders, he thought we might help them out in financing certain accounts in Medicine Hat. He referred to a coming election, I think. At that time they expected one.

Q. And what was the proposition he made?

A. He said that— It was an indirect proposition. He said that he understood the shells had been reduced to \$3.25 instead of \$5.00, and that they had assisted us and they should get a portion of that, and possibly half of the difference on shells that they assisted us in getting.

Q. And was this matter taken up by you with any of the other manufacturers?

A. I talked it over with Elliott of the Pump and Brass but I refused to take it up with the other two companies.

Q. What was the upshot of it.

A. We told him we would not listen to it in any way, shape or form.

Q. What caused you to pay no attention to it or refuse any further consideration of the proposition?

A. We did not think it was a fair demand or a right demand.

Apparently in this case the Conservative Association did not get the money, but the fact remains that the old line politicians of Medicine Hat were on the trail, and the fact that the pipe line in this case failed to connect only shows that the straight line party man is always on the job for his party's sake—Sometimes successful, sometimes not, but always "Johnny on the spot." And what was to be done with the money that was to be taken out of this shell business by some, the good Tories of Medicine Hat. It was to be used for the purpose of endowing a paper in that city. It was to provide the sinews of war for a party hand organ or mouth organ which was no doubt to indulge in the usual pastime of saving the Empire and teaching pure politics to the people of that community. Such is the freedom of the Press, such is the unrestrained bent of our political parties.

One of the crudest things of all this crudest and political filth was the hilarity in the court room during these revelations. Here was evidence which should have brought a look of disgust to the faces of every man present.

Men prominent in political life according to the evidence were trying to take from the shell business, money to further the ends of a political party and the people laughed at it, until the sheriff threatened to clear the court—It was all so "bally" humorous, don't you know,—much the same as the lions tearing the Christians to pieces before the Roman mob. It was a touch of politics from the inside, why shouldn't everybody be humorous?

There was no evidence to connect R. B. Bennett with profiteering in the shell business. Mr. Bailey claimed that he did not attempt to connect him with it. But the result of the trial was that Bailey has been let out on suspended sentence and a logical public must think it is better to get \$1.50 for doing a 15 cent job for the Government than to reveal such things to the public. It is better to try and secure 87½ cents for the propagation of Conservative Doctrine by means of a rake off on shells than it is to reveal the fact that such rake offs was attempted—Such is politics in Canada.

Those Wishing to have Verbatim Evidence of the

Bennett---Algar Bailey Trial

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MOTTO: "Success of the Student."

Mr. Cameron appeared before the City Commissioners to ask for a reduction in the water rates of the C.P.R. No one expected he would do anything else. It is the duty of a C.P.R. official to ask for a reduction in the price of anything purchased for the Company and to insist on having what might be called in all fairness his own rights and the rights of everybody else.

The finest thing about it all is that Mr. Cameron stated that the C.P.R. was willing to do everything that was fair and right for Calgary. Loud cheers! This is good, but the C.P.R. was not always so kind or at least its President was not. A few years ago the Gas Co. was trying to shove through a franchise which would permit it to charge an increased price for gas to the people of Lethbridge. What in thunder has that got to do with C.P.R.? Oh, but if it has nothing to do with the C.P.R., why did Dennis, Naismith, and Shaughnessy take a hand in it? Why did Shaughnessy issue instructions to the coal and irrigation interests at Lethbridge to get busy and see that the by-law was properly passed, and why was it necessary for him to suggest to his local representatives in this city that without the Lethbridge franchise being amended there would always be trouble with the people of Calgary who might be inclined to demand gas at as low a price as was given to the citizens at Lethbridge?

The fact is the C.P.R. is interested in the Gas Company, also it is interested in the coal mines of Lethbridge, and the rate for gas must be high or the consumption of coal would come down, and so these two interests being absolutely vital to the life and existence of this country act and react upon one another, and the whole community is in the hands of the C.P.R. and our destiny is controlled by Shaughnessy, Dennis, Naismith, et al, and Mr. Cameron tells us that they have the interests of the City of Calgary at heart.

Heigh ho—Cheero, Chappie! What rot!

* * *

LET THEM ALONE.

"For heaven's sake let the farmers alone. They don't know everything, but they do know their own business."—WM. SMITH, M.P. for Ontario County, on the Daylight Saving Bill at Ottawa.



F. J. DIXON, M.L.A.

OF WINNIPEG

Independent Progressive member of the Manitoba Legislature, who has had a wide experience in platform speaking on behalf of the cause of democracy, will visit Alberta during May. Lectures at Three Hills on May 24th and will address The Calgary Forum on May 26th. Can fill in a couple more dates. For terms and particulars, write at once to

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- "The Power of Ideals."
- "How to Get Rich Without Working."
- "The Bread and Butter Question."
- "Things Worth While."

"It would be well for Canada if there were more like him in the legislative halls of the Dominion, for in his address, given in a clear and ringing voice, he pointed out the way for a truer democracy and a greater fulfilment of the hopes of the people."—The Citizen, Ottawa.

"LADY MAUDE"

In the British House of Commons, the grant of \$125,000 to Lady Maude, widow of the late Gen. Sir F. S. Maude (well known at Ottawa), was vigorously opposed by Phillip Snowden, the Labor member for Blackburn.

The proposal was moved by Lloyd George and seconded by McKenna. Snowden opposed on broad grounds of public policy, and said the amount would probably be invested in war loan or other such security, and would bring in perpetuity an income of over \$6,000 a year, not only for the dependents, but for their descendants also. If provision was absolutely necessary for the living dependents, an annuity might be granted to them during the time they were unable to earn their own living or support themselves.

"But, further," said Mr. Snowden, "I object to the class distinction in such a proposal. In this country to-day there are something over a million pensioners, most of whom are receiving very small allowances indeed. In addition to those who are in receipt of such small government allowances, there are tens of thousands of men who have suffered physically in this war, and families who have been ruined financially who are receiving no financial recognition whatever from the government. . . . It is not fair, and I oppose the motion with the certain knowledge and assurance that it would be very much opposed in the country."

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

WHO OWNS THE UNION GOVERNMENT The profit accruing from the tariff privilege enjoyed by our manufacturers over and above the regular profit is shown by the Government figures for the nine months from March 31st to December 31st, 1917 during these nine months farm implements to the amount of eleven million dollars were imported from which three million went to the Government as duty. But about four times this amount in taxation was also paid to the home manufacturers for machinery which altogether would mean fifteen million dollars' taxation which the Canadian farmers have paid in nine months, twelve millions of which escaped the public treasury and flowed into the pockets of the Canadian money kings. Meanwhile these same manufacturers had an export trade of over four million dollars' worth of farm machinery which proves that the protection they enjoy is a privilege, an open-faced robbery, and during these times of stress a crime.

In the nine months quoted the manufacturers imported, duty free, \$716,000 worth of moldboards and other parts of plows, and after putting these parts together, sold the plows at the market price, thus receiving the benefit of the tariff, while they obtained the material without taxation, and exported \$903,000 worth of plows.

Now are the manufacturers or the Union Government the real government of Canada? The removing of the tariff from tractors is only a blind to make the people think that the

problem has been settled. It is only the big farmer who can afford to have a tractor; what of all the other machinery necessary to farming?

Here is the real test of the Government, and likely to be the rock upon which the ship of state will be wrecked. Those who financed the Union Government candidates in the last election will not allow the tariff to be tampered with, while the Western members, or at least a few of them, will feel bound to stand firm for Free Trade. Prepare for the funeral.

* * *

THE FARMERS But what of the farmer with this

dollar shrinkage? His wheat, which without Government prevention would have been Five Dollars per bushel, is going for two dollars and twenty cents, which means One Dollar and ten cents, according to the figures of Solicitor Ford. The fixing of the price of wheat with a dollar decline still declining, and railway and manufacturing charges soaring, is not fair to the farmer. Not that the farmer is grumbling; he is patriotic, and is conscious of the national difficulty, but why does not the Government fix the price of other things?

The price of machinery should be fixed, the price of money should be fixed, and the price of Labor should be fixed at a living standard. If all this fixing were to take place there could be no Union Government, for it is supported financially by those who benefit by fixing the price of nothing but wheat; therefore, there will be no fixing.

* * *

MR. McCUALEY The Superintendent of the Street Railway has been slated for a raise in his salary which was previously three thousand, three hundred and sixty dollars per year. This gentleman when opposing the organization of the street railway men scorned the idea of working men at home seeking more wages while their brothers were fighting in Flanders for one dollar and ten cents per day. But while Mr. McCauley's salary is three times as much as the ordinary street railway employee, he has not refused the increase. His patriotism has suddenly gone up in value. Why?

* * *

THE HERALD Perhaps the best way to settle this difficulty is to apply the "New Economy" of the Calgary Herald. When the street railway men asked for an increase in wages, for the same reason as given by Solicitor Ford, the Herald said that it could not be given because the street railway business could not stand it, as the system was running at a loss. Well, the man in the street asks, "Can the City stand the increase asked by heads of departments?" The City of Calgary has been run at a loss for several years, and is now under a debt of \$22,000,000, and threatened with bankruptcy. We, of course, do not believe in the nonsense advocated by the Herald, but wish

to contend that men must receive a living wage when engaged in the public interest whether the utility pays in a capitalistic sense or not, and that the wage earners are 50 per cent. more in need of a raise than the heads of departments, and should get their advance whatever happens.

* * *

LET THE DOLLAR GO But what do we care about the decrease of the dollar? It has shrunk 50 per cent. already, so let's hope that it melts away absolutely for it is a manufactured lie upon its very face, and upon such a lie our whole system is based.

Gold is the supposed basis of the dollar, but every one knows that we have more dollar bills than there is gold, and for that reason the dollar is a lie. It says: "I represent so much gold." But the gold is not there.

This is the psychological moment to establish a new basis of exchange. In doing so industry will receive the impetus it will require after the war. While gold is the basis all try to get gold, but gold is a useless thing, and the labor expended on it is wasted. It only indirectly stimulates industry. The resources of our country would be far more stable basis of exchange and were this the basis now the dollar would be going up instead of going down. If our business were arranged in this way we could dispense with all banks run as private institutions for profit, and the Government would issue notes to the extent of the estimated value of our national resources.

This is a reform which is long overdue, and should now be under-

taken by all organizations in a co-operative effort to push it to a successful conclusion.

* * *

PATRONAGE A returned man in **CHICKEN COMES HOME** the uniform of a Captain is nearer the patronage **TO ROOST**

door than a private, even though the private may have honorable wounds. Mr. Stitt is a case in point. He arrived in Calgary and picked up an officer's uniform somewhere, told of his services in France, and thereby worked his way into the heart of Rev. A. McTaggart. This supposed officer was recommended to Mr. R. B. Bennett by Rev. McTaggart, and was duly appointed commanding officer of the Discharge Depot. About eighteen months later Mr. Stitt was arrested, and the evidence showed that he had never seen the front, that he had two wives living, and was a fraud.

Now, there are many honest returned soldiers who have been disabled in the service of their country and who could have done the work in connection with the Discharge Depot as well as this impostor. If Mr. Bennett has such influence as to be able to secure a plum for a fake officer, surely he might exercise such influence in favor of a returned private.

But why should anyone have to go to Mr. Bennett to get an appointment? If the man in question had been a returned officer we should never have known how he got his appointment, but when the old machine slips a cog we get a glimpse of the real conditions. It is amazing how easily this deaf man obtained and held such a position.

If Mr. McTaggart or Mr. Bennett are interested in the welfare of returned men, they could better expend their efforts in a scheme that would deal with the whole problem adequately. Inasmuch as every returned man cannot get such a billet as given to this pseudo officer, it is surprising that two such eminent gentlemen should have taken so active a part in the perpetuation of a patronage privilege. It is surely a system unworthy of our boasted democracy, which leaves such appointments accessible to a party politician.

* * *

THE BAILEY-BENNETT CASE The Editor of "Fair Play" was arraigned before the Criminal Court at the

instigation of Mr. R. B. Bennett and charged with making slanderous insinuations in an article reflecting on the character of the latter. The implication from the article was in

connection with the high profits alleged to have been made on shell contracts in Medicine Hat by the Alberta Foundry & Machine Company, and implied that Mr. Bennett knew where the profits went.

The graft and patronage brought out in the evidence were startling. Even the chief citizen of Medicine Hat was mentioned as begging for graft on shell contracts in the interest of the local Conservative machine. One witness—a shell manufacturer—said on oath that Mr. Brown (the Mayor of Medicine Hat) had offered to try and secure another shell contract for said witness, providing that Mr. Brown would be allowed 30 cents per shell for his trouble. Mr. Brown also waited on the witness and intimated that 87½ cents per shell was expected as a donation to the local political machine, the shell contract having been given at \$5.00 per shell, when the shell could be manufactured for \$2.50.

Mr. Bailey evidently thought, as Mr. McLaws, a member of Mr. Bennett's law firm, was also a partner in the company manufacturing the shells, that Mr. Bennett would know something about what was taking place. But in this Mr. Bailey seems to have been mistaken; the Jury gave the verdict against him.

At the time when these high profits on shells were being made, Mr. Bennett was, according to his own words, representing Mr. R. B. Bennett at Ottawa, and while if the Jury was correct in its decision Mr. Bennett did not know where these profits went, he as a member of Parliament, an Imperialist, and a patriot, ought to have considered it his duty to find out where these high profits were going. We cannot recall one instance of Mr. Bennett's oratory being used in the House of Commons to denounce this excessive profiteering going on under his very nose.

* * *

AMERICAN HUNNISHNESS Recent events across the line indicate that the war is rapidly developing a mob psychology which, blind to the dictates of conscience and humanity, does not hesitate to commit the most brutal crimes in the name of patriotism.

Press reports describe the hanging of a man at Collinsville, Ill., who was accused of making disloyal remarks in a recent address to miners.

A mob consisting of 350 persons gathered in front of the City Hall and took the victim, said to be of German parentage, from the police. After compelling him to parade barefooted through the streets, kissing the American flag at intervals, he was hanged

from a tree one mile south of the city limits.

In all the four years that Great Britain and her Allies have been at war no deed even remotely approaching this has been committed by any of the civil populations. Indeed it has been our proud boast that enemies within our borders accused of crimes against the State have always been accorded a fair trial with adequate police protection.

The Belgian atrocities were committed by German soldiers in the heat and passion of bloody warfare but this revolting act of cruelty was done by civilians styling themselves a "Loyalist Committee." It is to be hoped that the American Government will take drastic steps to check this tendency to frightfulness in some quarters as the world will not view those events even in wartime with an indulgent eye. This is the culminating event in a series of flag-kissing episodes which for blatant demonstrations of ignorance and jingoism Germany herself cannot match.

In the name of humanity, justice, and national honor we condemn those outbursts of passion, and have no desire as Canadians to be associated, in the eyes of the world, with such reprehensible tactics.

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The Non-Partisan Movement

THE CHURCH IN POLITICS.

By Will Holmes.

Had the idea of the Non-Partisan League been conceived in the councils of the Alberta Social Service League, which is the organization in which the protestant churches unite to combat certain evils, it would have the support of the churches that the prohibition movement had. Because it is not known that we found our origin among religious people, and were called into being by forces just as sincerely moral as those which launched the movement for prohibition, or those that launched the movement against slavery, we exist without the church's approbation, which at present rests upon the Union Government.

Yet the church, as a whole, recognizes that our political system is not all that it should be. Scarcely is there an assembly, conference, synod, or council passes without some strong resolution being passed with reference to the corruption that exists in Canadian public life, and in very many instances the party system is attacked in vigorous terms. We need not hesitate to give the Protestant church credit in that it was due largely to her universal protest in favor of Union Government, that the present Government offered herself to the country under the caption "Union."

We would like to go a step farther and say that the various church councils in demanding a Union Government had in mind Non-Partisan Government. But the principles of proposed change take time to become clear to the mind. There was the lingering dread of another party as a means of solving the problem, and always the desire to get together rather than to separate. The people wanted something but they knew not what, and while the mind was floundering amidst this chaos, a gigantic scheme, dazzling in its bigness, had been used to describe this vague "something," and purporting to solve the problem. Leaders of the churches jumped at it without hesitation, and the people followed.

The Protestant church in Canada has given its blessing to the Union Government. It is difficult for us Western farmers to realize just what this means, but word comes that in many cities the pulpits were thrown open to candidates and supporters of the Government. Ministers who couldn't secure politicians, preached and pleaded for Government support themselves. Prayers were offered that the people of Canada might do their duty in this hour of crisis, and that Canada might be saved from everything not Unionist. We are told that the political meetings were almost prayer meetings, and Union Government supporters were regarded as having a special commission from the Most High. This picture is not over-drawn. It is the description as given by Union Government supporters themselves who still regard the election as significant. Of course, we who know Mr. Sifton so well, and some of us who have always supported and admired him, would consider it somewhat sacrilegious to hold a special prayer meeting for his election to any office, but such was the case. We can only hope that the memory of this sacred baptism (we say it reverently) will influence the members of the Union Government to good works.

But the church wants just what this League has to offer. Some of her ministers already see it and are our ardent supporters. After two or three sessions of the Provincial Legislature, when the debates of Mrs. McKinney and Jas. Weir have been made public, it will be realized that here is the solution of the problem, and all the churches that are sincere in their desire for a better Canada will be behind the movement. In fact, we offer to the church the opportunity to do what she wants to do without making compromises with her enemies. Here, if she wants to, she can carry on the war without increasing the already exorbitant profits of certain great corporations. Here she can declare herself in sympathy with the great toiling masses without allying herself with ranting atheists. Here she can unite her forces with all other forces to bring about such reforms as can be secured in the political field. We are out to combat narrow bigotry, whether it be Conservative, Liberal, secret-society, religious, Socialist or capitalistic. Let the little sects play their game and fight their battle, but we represent those who have freed themselves from their party shackles; have refused to mix their creeds and rituals with politics, and unite with our comrades in the single declaration that Canada shall be a country of free men, and shall be governed by the principles of righteousness and peace and joy for all her people. If you expect to obtain this in your own religious way, or by your own pet political theory, you will fail as you always have failed. Great reforms have always come about by people getting together. It was the church and labor, lodge and boozier that gained prohibition. Only as we stand on common ground will we make Canada a place nearly worthy of the sacrifices that are being made for her. Those who are awake to their moral duty will not hesitate from now on to be out-and-out Non-Partisans.

* * *

THE PATRONAGE FRAUD

The glad tidings have gone out that patronage is abolished, but to the casual visitor at Ottawa it looks as if patronage is doubled. Instead of one party having a pull, both parties have a pull, a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether. It is the open season for job hunting at Ottawa right now. The hunting is good, too. Nearly everybody brings down the job he is after. Some of the jobs are fatter than others, but when a hunter complains he is told that the man doesn't live by salary alone, and that he will be expected to turn in a generous expense account. That fixes it up. This war has got to be won, if the last job takes the last dollar. Three men may take the same job; they may even be uncertain what the job is, but that makes no difference—the chief end of a job is the pay envelope, and that must come regularly. We may be winning the war by multiplying jobs, but it looks bad to see so many buzzards picking Canada's bones. Royal commissions of one kind and another sprout over night. God knows how many railway boards, food boards, purchase boards, war trade boards—all more or less festive boards, by the way—we have in Ottawa at this moment. The best calculators have lost track of their number. Even the Government could not tell, off-hand, how many there are.—By "CANADA FIRST," in the Weekly Sun, Toronto.

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Our Members in the Legislature

BUSY DAYS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

By Mrs. McKinney, M.L.A.

These are such busy days in the Legislature that there is little time to write of what is being done, for there have been evening sittings for the past three weeks, and since the Easter recess the evening sitting lasts till eleven o'clock, so with committee meetings every morning, it makes rather a full day.

The Municipal Law Committee, of which I happen to be a member, has spent most of its time considering amendments to city charters, and as all such amendments must pass this committee before being recommended to the House, some of us have decided that we do not envy the members of a city council, nor even the city rate-payer. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has intimated that it is his purpose to prepare a uniform charter for cities—a suggestion which met with general approval. This is in line with the action taken at this session to standardize municipal units, and form both the organized municipality and the Local Improvement District into Municipal Districts.

The greater part of the time for the past two weeks has been taken up in the discussion of the estimates. From the outside this might seem a waste of time, but one can readily understand that it would be an unwise, as well as an unsafe precedent to establish, to permit a vote of \$10,830,000 to pass **without close scrutiny**, as far as possible, of every item. So the method of procedure is to discuss the estimates of each department item by item. This, of course, opens the way for many questions and takes some time. The information secured for the public will, we think, more than compensate for the time spent.

Some of the questions called forth a declaration of policy on the part of the Government. We are told that during the year for various reasons there will be no telephone construction, except for making more efficient the lines already in existence. While this is a general policy yet, I presume, every case of need will be considered on its merits.

In the matter of bridges, the Minister says there will be no construction of steel bridges this year, except one or two already under construction. There will be \$100,000 spent on main roads, and \$260,000 on district and local roads throughout the Province. A general plan of co-operation with municipal districts is to be formulated. Indeed, a bill providing for that has been brought down but has not yet been discussed. We trust it will prove satisfactory to the various sections of the Province. If any of our readers would be interested in seeing the estimates, we will be pleased to have copies sent. They make very interesting reading, and incidentally furnish a side light on many situations in the Province. Many points were of special interest, but an article of this length does not make it possible to give details.

Since the estimates have been disposed of, the bills are being passed along with as much speed as possible, and while a number of important measures have yet to come up for discussion in the committee of the whole house, yet it is confidently expected that this week will see the close of the session.

Some of the matters discussed have had to do with Greater Production, and

\$50,000 has been voted to assist in this direction. The Province has been divided into sixteen districts with a superintendent over each, and it is hoped that the farmers everywhere will heartily co-operate with any plans they may propose.

The House was addressed one day by representatives of the Red Cross, and we were told that this year Alberta is asked to double its subscription for this most worthy cause, as money, as well as garments, will be urgently needed.

The galleries were filled every day last week, as the city had many visitors attending the Horse Show and the Teachers' Convention, and many took the opportunity to look in and observe proceedings in the House. The members are always glad to see their friends and to extend them any possible courtesy.

In our next article, we hope to give further details on many of the bills, to be discussed this week, and which are of special interest to farmers.—LOUISE C. MCKINNEY.

* * *

TURNING THE SEARCHLIGHT ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES.

Ministers' Relatives Figure in Transactions.

By Jas. Weir, M.L.A.

The outstanding feature of the week in the Legislature was the Herculean efforts of the members on the Government side to prevent enquiries into the public accounts.

The Public Accounts contain the records of the expenditure of the people's money by the administration during the previous year. An enquiry was in progress regarding the Lacombe and Blind Man Railway, and was being conducted by A. H. Ewing, member for West Edmonton. He found it necessary to attend court during the week, and in his absence the obstructors thought the member for Nanton would not be able to go on, and, as he had complained so often of the committee being set aside, they hoped to place upon him the responsibility for not having a meeting of the committee. However, enough members to hold a meeting was rustled, and as it was not the intention to interfere in Mr. Ewing's railway matter, decided to go into the accounts in general. The chairman, J. A. McNaughton, member for Little Bow, whose chief reason for being there, seems to the writer, to be his disposition to balk, by picayune objection and otherwise, every effort to get at the facts, ruled that the committee could not go on without an order from the House, and he further demanded notice of the matters to be brought up at the next meeting and the witnesses to be summoned. The member for Nanton punctured this little balloon by giving notice as follows:

"NOTICE.

"TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:

"Sir,—Please provide for next meeting of Public Accounts Committee as follows:

"1. Summon Mr. Lyers and Mr. Carlyle, of Department of Agriculture, with vouchers in connection with their travelling expenses for 1917.

"2. Summon account of Department of Municipal Affairs, and have him bring all vouchers of the Department pertaining to the travelling expenses of all officials of the Department, including the Wild Land Tax Branch. These vouchers to

include the vouchers of the Minister covering his travelling expenses for 1917.

"3. Summon Minister of Education and have him bring a list of the names, positions held, and salaries of all persons related to him by blood or marriage, who are employed in the Government service.

"4. Summon Minister of Agriculture and have him bring a list of the names, positions held, and salaries of all persons related to him by blood or marriage, who are employed in the Government service.

"5. Summon Hon. Mr. Mitchell, and have him bring all vouchers of monies paid the Dominion Securities Company (with offices in Toronto), in connection with debenture or bonds of the Province of Alberta, written in that office, and all correspondence in reference thereto, either with the company or J. A. Fraser, an officer of the company."

At once the fat was in the fire, and, as the Edmonton Journal said, the obstructors were like a tenderfoot who tried to cut the tail off a stinging lizard.

The next morning none of the matter was ready. Every excuse any schoolboy ever thought of was given, and the committee had to adjourn.

On Friday morning, the fire works opened. Mr. Ewing was still absent, and the member for Nanton took the case in hand himself and began the examination of Mr. Newson, Deputy Treasurer. From the file it was shown very clearly that the Provincial Treasurer himself had opened the negotiations with the Dominion Securities Co. for the sale of \$1,500,000 of provincial bonds; that nearly all the correspondence was between Mr. Mitchell and J. A. Fraser, his brother-in-law and treasurer of the company; that the company only bought at once \$250,000 of the bonds and received an option for \$750,000 more for sixty days, and that the company made thousands of dollars out of the transaction. The excuse offered by the Deputy Treasurer was that the market was dull, and that was why only the company in which his brother-in-law was interested was offered the bonds. The ready and successful sale of the bonds, however, exploded the theory of a dull market, and for the remaining \$500,000 the Treasurer asked a point better price.

The Provincial Treasurer tried every resort known to the pettifogger to offset the effect of the disclosure—asked leading questions, prompted his deputy and violated every custom of cross-examination, but to no avail. The bald facts stand out in bold relief, and several members of the Government party remarked during the day that the most serious charge made against any member of the Government in recent years had been made and fully proved.

The brother-in-law business to them was bad, the giving options on Government securities was cheapening, and one prominent member stated that it must have been from his long association with the Siftons, Turriffs and Burrows that the Provincial Treasurer had learned the value of close business associations with a brother-in-law.

There is likely to be further enquiry into the matter before the close of the session, as it has been hinted to the Non-Partisan member that the sale of bonds is one of the juiciest fruits of ministerial influence.

It developed during the week, too, that Smith and Hallocks had between 1912 and 1917 supplied the Government with 273 cars of material for 166 bridges.

Smith and Hallocks are listed in the telephone book as wholesale lumber dealers with an office in the Telegar Block, Edmonton. Mr. Smith, head of the firm, is a brother of Hon. Geo. P. Smith, Provincial Secretary. Where this firm's timber limits and lumber yards are located has not yet been announced to the House. There is a suspicion in some quarters that they are playing the old sporting game of the middle against the two ends; but, perhaps, evidence before the Public Accounts Committee at a later date will decide the point.

During the discussion on the estimates, some interesting information was forthcoming on election methods in the Province, and the Imperial powers of returning officers. It was shown that in the election of the erstwhile Hon. A. L. Sifton, in 1917, the expense was about double that in the same riding in 1913, and the same condition prevailed with reference to the Hon. J. R. Boyle and Hon. Wilfred Gariepy. It was also shown that while Hon. A. J. McLean's travelling expenses for 1917 were around \$350, Hon. Mr. Gariepy's were over \$1,900. These latter are to be subject of enquiry by Mr. Crawford, member for South Edmonton on Tuesday morning.

To revert again for a moment to the Public Accounts. In England, the Chairman of the Committee is invariably a member of the Opposition, and each party vies with the other in facilitating all enquiries and indulging in fair criticism of the expenditures. In Edmonton, every obstacle seems to be put in the way of the enquirer, and over Mr. Speaker's ruling is intended to embarrass the inquisitor, even when that ruling is entirely out of accord with every known procedure, and even with the manual provided for the conduct of the Assembly.

So glaring and studied has all this obstruction become and so shell shocked have some of the members on the Government side become, particularly the Chairman, that the opposition and independents are beginning to think that after all there may be some good reasons for the opposition shown to the enquiries into the expenditure of the people's money being proceeded with. However, it is the people's business to know, and despite the old adage that "Whom the gods destroy, they first make mad," the enquiries will proceed as long as the session lasts, and perhaps longer. —JAS. WEIR.

* * *

THE N. P. L. IN NEW NORWAY.

Very successful meetings were held at New Norway recently. Mr. W. Irvine was the speaker, and held meetings at New Norway and Rose Bush School. Both meetings were well attended, and the farmers and farmers' wives of this district evinced an intelligent interest in public questions, and were enthusiastic for the N. P. L. movement.

The value of a personality to any organization is beyond estimate, when such a personality has the respect and confidence of those composing the organization. In this regard the League has a strong supporter in Mr. I. L. Stuve, who does not hesitate to give both time and money freely to the cause. He filled the meetings, acted as chairman at both, and spent two days with his team driving our speaker from point to point as required.

This is the type of men the League requires, who understand and who have enough vision to make a sacrifice to the cause. New Norway is awake, the people are beginning to think in themselves and, therefore, we do not fear results for the League in this district.

WHO OWNS THE GOVERNMENT?



NOT THE PATRIOTIC PUBLIC!

The Returned Soldier Problem

REPLIES FROM OTTAWA

The following replies have been received to the resolution passed at the Non-Partisan League annual convention, March 20th. Copies were forwarded to the Prime Minister, T. C. Crerar, A. L. Sifton, and each Federal M.P. for Alberta.

Ottawa, April 2, 1918.
J. H. Ford,
Secretary N.P.L., Alberta.

Dear Sir:—The Prime Minister directs me to acknowledge your letter of 28th March. Copies have been forwarded to the Minister of Militia, and to the Minister of the Interior.

Yours truly,
GEO. W. YATES,
Prime Minister's Secretary.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your letter of March 28th with enclosed resolution. I am submitting this to the Great War Veteran's Association at Wainwright for their suggestions.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. BLAIR,
Battle River.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your resolution. The same will have my attention. I may say that there are several clauses in the resolution that I agree with, but before committing myself I purpose

to have the views of the War Veterans' Association in the matter. I remain,

Yours very truly,
HUGH M. SHAW,
Macleod.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 28th March in reference to the returned soldier problem, received and read with interest.

Yours very truly,
ARTHUR L. SIFTON.

Dear Sir:—I have your letter of March 28th, with enclosures. I have sent your letter to Great War Veterans' Association, Calgary, as I think they can best deal with the matter. If it is satisfactory to them, of course, it will be satisfactory to me.

Yours very truly,
D. L. REDMAN.

* * *

GOOD FOR ALBERTA.

"Alberta looks good to me, and I am glad to be back," said a member of the Non-Partisan League executive on his return from a trip to the States. "I have been to California, Nebraska, Illinois and Ohio, and I am more than ever convinced of the future of Alberta. Calgary too, takes some beating. Above all, the spirit of our people is more advanced, more progressive, and more tolerant, in these war times, than any I have met with in my travels."

The Non-Partisan Letter Box

THE CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS

Sedgewick, Alberta.

To the Editor of

THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

Dear Sir:—I would esteem it a great favor if you can find space in your valuable paper for the following:—

I wish to draw the attention of your numerous readers to the arbitrary measures adopted by the Department of Education in regard to the consolidation of schools. On Feb. 27th last, a poll regarding consolidation was taken in the following school districts. The proposed school was to be situated in the Village of Sedgewick. The following was the result of the poll:—

	For.	Against.
Sedgewick	120	4
Fairgrove	22	35
Wheatland	17	11
Caledonia	0	12

These are the country districts.

You will see by the above figures that the country districts as a whole turned consolidation down by a majority of 19 or 59 per cent. of the vote. In spite of this the Minister of Education has formed these districts (otherwise than Caledonia) into a consolidated area without any further notice.

Now, may I be allowed to ask the following questions:—

- (a) Is this a free country?
- (b) Is not a Britisher's vote his prerogative?
- (c) Do the minority rule the majority?
- (d) Does the Premier of Alberta hand out votes for women on the one hand while the members of his Executive annul them on the other?
- (e) Do the towns and villages rule the country districts?

The town vote, as you will notice, was 124. The country vote altogether was only 97. If the votes of the towns and villages are to be counted against the country districts. The country districts must of necessity always be beaten, so that a poll in such matters is a mere farce.

This consolidated district is about 16 to 18 miles in length. Some of the children will have to drive as far as 20 miles per day. Now, is it possible for a child to be mentally and physically efficient if he has to take such a drive every day no matter what weather conditions prevail? Is it fair and just for this child to have to compete with children living on the spot? Is this a scheme for better education or for the convenience of Inspectors who find the weather conditions too bad for visiting country school districts during the winter?

Now, surely the Educational authorities believe that a child should have some recreation, and if so, how is a child under such conditions to find time and energy for it?

I have encroached to a great length on your space but think it a matter of importance to all who aim for justice.

Faithfully yours,

E. SNOWSELL,
in the Fairgrove School District.

* * *

LIKES THE SPIRIT

Milk River, Alta.

Mr. Editor:—

While at U. F. A. Convention, Calgary, I received a copy of the Alberta Non-Partisan. Have read it through from A to Z, and appreciate the spirit of the paper. I would like more copies and your subscription rates.

Yours truly,
V. E. LIND.

MOODIEISM NOT UNCOMMON

Hillcrest, Alta.

Mr. Editor:

Sir:—I notice in your NON-PARTISAN paper, a cartoon headed, "Out-Classed." Now, to my mind, this might be extended further than Drumheller field.

Only a few days ago revelations in connection with the C.N.R. farce went to show that McKenzie & Mann were owners of Moodie Mine, bought or opened up with money which really belongs to the people, because we have evidence that this money was taken from the funds of the C.N.R. for mining operations. Now, Mr. Editor, if we have to take over the debts of McKenzie & Mann we certainly have a right to take over all their assets as well. There are more Moodies than one, only we have not yet had the opportunity to unmask them. It is just exceptional circumstances in this case that has compelled the Government to make Mr. Moodie fall into line.

I am glad this thing has come to light for it will show the mine slave that emancipation is in sight. I have worked in nine mines in the Province and most of them have a Moodie, mild, medium or strong.

Yours, —A MINER.

* * *

WHAT THE BOYS WILL WANT

Victor, Alta.,

March 4th, 1918.

Mr. Editor:—

In your issue of Feb. 22nd, front page cartoon, "A Hard Nut to Crack," you need a stick of dynamite and time fuse inserted in between the teeth before big interests will become aware of trouble, and as for Jack Reid addressing Calgary Ministerial Association, well, that would be worth hearing.

The present Government has to do as they are told, but not by the people, — one farmer's man was becoming some good to the farmers, so the big interests put him where he will help them more, in a short time blossoming out as Lord Crerar, etc., all praise to Mr. Woods, President of U.F.A., for refusing the same position. In Mr. Preston's letter of Feb. 15th, he mentions wounded veteran who talked social revolution. Well, wait till they all come back and then there will be something doing; when they will want what they fought for.

Yours truly,

MARK DALEY.

* * *

FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Dear Editor:—

Enclosed please find money order for five subscriptions to your paper. I am greatly interested in the movement and cause for which you are working. The Non-Partisan is very interesting and educational. Would that all farmers and workers who are producers of wealth, would read and study along these lines of independent political thought and action.

Justice can never be expected from the old party system. There is graft and corruption everywhere, and in church and state but this old system is nearing its end, and we can hope that in its place a real democracy will arise. Then the real producers of the nation's wealth will receive a legitimate share of what they do produce.

Yours for a real democracy,

H. L. STUVE,
New Norway, Alta.

PLEASED WITH CONVENTION

Editor, " Alberta Non-Partisan":

It was my privilege to attend some of the sessions of your recent convention at Calgary, and I beg to compliment you upon the clear, business-like manner in which the convention dealt with all questions presented. I was impressed with your principles and your methods of upholding them. Doubtless you have the instrument by which it is possible for the masses to effect their emancipation—if they will use it.

Democracy has much to hope, and naught nothing to fear from your progress. You will be stigmatized as Utopian and sentimental by partisan devotees, and the priests of privilege and the paid press. They will assail, but they cannot prevail. If your principles lose, democracy cannot win. The latent strength of public sentiment cannot long be suppressed by political art. Only when the people take the situation in hand can we hope to possess to-day that democracy which is so vaguely promised us to-morrow from the hands of those whose personal ends would be defeated by granting it.

The common sense of most can well be trusted. One thing is sure that whatever they may do, they cannot lead themselves into a sadder mess than that into which they have been led by autocratic governments. Some other system is at least worth trying.

—WILLIAM WILBUR.

* * *

AN ANCHORAGE FOR THE WOMAN VOTER

Manville, Alta., March 18th.
Editor, " Alberta Non-Partisan":

I wish to express my appreciation of OUR paper. I dreamed of such an organization or League as this several years ago, and am delighted that it is so far advanced as to have a newspaper of its own. I pass my copy on to others whom I hope to influence, and trust something may be done in the near future to organize in this district. I find in this League an anchorage for the woman voter. Wishing you all success,

MRS. ALBERTA CUNDAL.

* * *

OH!

The Nutcracker, Calgary:—

Stop my subscription to your anarchist paper at once.

J. R. RUORK,
Ensign.

* * *

A GO-GETTER

Box 388, Purple Springs,
Alberta.

Dear Sir:—
Enclosed find \$1 to place my name on your mailing list. Your paper is a go-getter. If you want more money, just holler.

Yours truly,
W. H. KATHRENS.

* * *

WILLING TO HELP

Milk River, Alta., March 20th.
Editor, " Alberta Non-Partisan", Calgary:

I received a copy some time ago, and must say I can find no fault with it. Let me know your price as I can send in names of many around here that would like, and need, a paper like yours.

Thanking you in advance,
J. B. ELLERT.

Interesting Topics

THE COLONIZATION SCHEME FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Away up north, hundreds of miles above Edmonton, at the very top of the continent, lies a vast empire. We are told by travellers, explorers and in government books, that this great expanse, stretching from Athabasca to the Arctic Circle and from Hudson's Bay to the Rockies and beyond, contains millions of acres of agricultural and stock land, and all kinds of minerals such as coal, gas, petroleum, copper, gypsum and other things yet to be discovered.

We are also told by the Capitalist press that great development is to take place up there after the war, railways are to be built to get out the minerals, and a great influx of settlers is expected from the States and from Europe. It is also proposed to settle the returned soldiers in that new Eldorado.

Now, as to the soldiers, with due regard for the fertility that this great northern country may possess, it appears to me that the soldiers have had enough hellishness thrust upon them during the war, without having this extra awful punishment inflicted upon them. Those of us who have gone through the various degrees of homesteading know what it means to go homesteading into a new and untried country, miles away from railways and marketing centers. We know that the man with little or no capital who goes out on the frontier becomes an easy prey for commercial pirates, storekeepers, implement companies, banks, etc. It means a long terrible struggle against great odds, years of hard toil and privation in trying to keep up with high interest charged on implements, and to pay off the inevitable mortgage that practically every homesteader sooner or later is compelled to put on his place.

The opening up and developing of the mineral wealth spoken of—we know what that means. We have seen this repeated in every new district in the States and Canada so far. A number of capitalists will come together and form a corporation and build a railway into a district that looks promising; they will go before the government and get a fat donation of either land or money. Then, either the railway promoters or other capitalist corporations will start in to get the minerals out. Thousands of workers will be hired, very often at starvation wages. There may be strikes, lock-outs, and the usual industrial disturbances. The promoters usually become millionaires, and some of them will be handed a title, while the workers get a bare living.

Now, here is the situation confronting the people of Western Canada, and if we don't watch out in time, and enter a vigorous protest, things will happen just as outlined above.

We want the great northern land opened up all right, but we want the land and the mineral wealth to remain the property of the government—the whole people. We want the government to build, own, and operate the railways, and no settlement should be allowed to start unless railroads are built at the same time to serve the settlers. We want to see workers employed getting out the minerals and paid a fair living wage, then have the profit applied to better the conditions throughout the country. To have this done there is only one remedy, and that is to elect farmers and workers to own the government.

JOHN GLAMBECK, Milo.

THE FARM LABOR PROBLEM.

Farmers in the south country have been weighing up the labor situation in the various locals of the U. F. A., and the consensus of opinion is that they are willing to give good wages to good men, for at the present juncture they are worth it. Wages have always been good in the south country, and the tables kept by the farmers south of Lethbridge are excellent. Nowhere does a person find parsimony with regard to the "cats," and that is why the south country farm hands generally stay down near the border.

It takes months before a man becomes dependable on a farm if he has known nothing about the work before, and just about the time the new hand becomes useful, he quits, for someone else that offers him a higher wage. During the time he was being taught by the long-suffering farmer, he has perhaps been the cause of hundreds of dollars loss through his inexperience, because through not knowing the ropes something is put on the bum just at a critical time, and as certain things have to be done at the right moment it often happens that the smashing of machinery, injury to teams, etc., causes the farmer untold worry and loss.

It has been urged with all this talk of government help, that it would be wise for the government to take all the men offering for work on the land and have them trained for a month at the experimental farms, just as a soldier is trained in his special duties till he becomes letter perfect. Putting on harness, taking it off, linking up to various kinds of machinery, tuition with regard to binders, cultivators, drills, and the like, can easily be taught the men in squads and save the farmer hundreds of thousands of hours which could be spent in production of the most intense kind. The farmer has no time to stand over the new man teaching him every little trifle, and that is why they are looking somewhat dubiously at the proposal to conscript men for the land.

"It will take us all our time to get the seed in land already prepared," said Mr. H. A. Walter at Raley local, "and if we cannot get some assistance to harvest the crop, not only will the Allies be the losers, but we shall be put on the rocks. With a bumper crop, everybody will have to turn out, or the harvest will have to lie on the ground. That's all."

—“CARLOS”

* * *

A FARMER ON FOOD CONSERVATION.

While there is so much raving going on about the high cost of living, little attention is paid to the fact that the waters of the province simply teem with fish, and only the most inaccessible parts are handed over for use by the public, so that men with capital can rake in the harvest, while the poor farmer far removed from the haunts of the funny tribe goes without. What may be done was evidenced by the two young men who invested in a few nets and went fishing in the lakes of the north country this winter, and then toured the south with a refrigerator car and sold the fish at ten cents per pound. The attention of the farmers in the south country was vividly drawn to the matter, for in the Waterton Lakes there is sufficient large fish to keep Southern Alberta supplied all summer, and still leave in the lakes more than is really necessary.

Farmers have been pleading to be allowed to fish in those preserves for a long time but without avail, and Mr. Joseph H. Ellison, of Aetna, one of the prominent farmers of the Cardston district, declares that farmers south of the line can get what they want, but the Canadian farmer has to buy from the cold storage man. He was the first man to take up land in Southern Alberta in that township, and he has persistently written Ottawa advocating that the lakes be thrown open to the farmers for the purpose of their wants in the winter.

"There's monsters in those lakes," he said recently to a Non-Partisan League organizer, "and if we were allowed to go and get our winter supply in the late fall we should be doing good. They are dying of old age in those waters, and nobody can get the benefit of them. It is the same with the ducks. In Washington, Oregon and California, they get what they want as long as they are in the vicinity and nothing said. We raise the ducks on our wheat fields, and some body else gets the eating of them."

"It is all very well talking about sport; we want to eat, and it is impossible to have a meatless day on the farm in the winter without some sort of substitute. Let the farmers get what fish they want for the winter, and I guarantee there will be more meatless days in the country than the cities have."

—“CARLOS”

Our propaganda can only be spread by those who "stand firm in the faith." We want every farmer in Alberta to be reading it. You can help by talking about the "Alberta Non-Partisan" to your friends, to your merchant and to your dealer.

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Changing a Bad Principle in Politics

THE DEMOCRATIC NON-PARTISANS.

(Reprint from Editorial Columns, Calgary News Telegram, March 30, 1918.)

The Non-Partisans, at their annual convention, claimed to be the most democratic political organization in the Dominion. Mr. M. E. Sly, of Strathmore, who presented the financial report, stated it was his firm conviction that "no other political organization in the Dominion could present such a remarkable statement, giving total receipts, THE SOURCE IT CAME FROM, and an itemized list of expenditures." In addition, the book-keeper was present by the side of the chairman, ready to give any item of expenditure that might be called for by any member present.

This is a great departure from the usual line in politics, and one that is fraught with great possibilities for good in the politics of the Dominion. If only this principle could be extended to the old-line political organizations, and the people were sufficiently alive to demand it, those responsible for establishing such a movement in Western Canada could congratulate themselves on making history; and in itself would justify all the effort and money involved in initiating and propagating such principles in the political life of Canada.

Further, both the Non-Partisan members of the Provincial Legislature were present to give an account of their stewardship to those responsible for their election. As was remarked at the outset, the League was changing a bad principle in politics, insofar as people could vote for those who would be their servants, instead of for candidates backed by interests who would dominate their policy when elected as members. The League was teaching the principle that campaign funds must be contributed by the people, so that the wishes of the people can be served in our legislature.

Because a few dared to hope that such a principle was necessary if government of the people, by the people and for the people was to be obtained, much opprobrium had to be faced as to the amount of "graft" that lay in a \$15 membership fee. But what about these expert manipulators themselves? Do they ever face the daylight and give account of the amount spent in securing their election, and the source from whence it came?

Imagine, if you can, Sir Clifford Sifton or the other gatherers of the campaign funds of the last election, coming before a provincial convention of Unionists with a financial statement showing the funds spent on behalf of the Unionist candidates in Alberta, with the names of those who contributed the money! Or, imagine a convention of electors of Red Deer, for instance, being told what it cost to elect the Unionist candidate, the source from which the money came, and the sources to which it went! It cannot be imagined.

Here was a much-derided organization asking its members to satisfy themselves that the money had been expended judiciously for the purpose for which it has been contributed. We wonder what Union Government nominee could do this, and, in addition, show the source from which his campaign funds were derived. What amount, indeed, would be the membership fee to the Union Government? Perhaps it is best not to see such figures in print, and thus save the blush of all honest Canadians.

"Were the League to cease as a political factor at the present moment, it has already accomplished a service to our Province great enough to repay the expenditure of effort and money involved," is a statement that is probably correct.

Meanwhile, the organization is to work harder than ever before. The experience gained will help the promoters to build even more surely. To have sent men to cover the wide prairies and obtain approximately 3,000 converts to a new cause; to participate in five provincial and four federal election contests, and then come before the members with well over \$10,000 assets, is no mean achievement for a new organization, whether we do or do not quite agree with all its politics.

* * *

THE NON-PARTISAN GETS HOME!

"I get quite a lot of country orders, and they must come from my advertisement in the Non-Partisan, as I do not advertise in any other paper with country circulation," said a Calgary merchant to the writer recently. A small advertisement in the Non-Partisan goes a long way. Through the organization behind it, it has a unique circulation. Ask your dealer why he does not advertise in the "ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN."

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The "Cheap Money" Question

HOW TO SECURE CHEAP MONEY.

By W. R. Ball, Deer Mound, Alta.

It is a usual thing when we are agitating for any reform that would be a great benefit to humanity for the people to say, "Yes, I believe in your plans, but how are we going to get them put in operation, and as in this case you have all the big interests to conquer, it is not wise to enter a fight without first considering the power of the enemy, and if you do not think you have a reasonable chance to win it would not be wise to begin the fight. I have considered well the power of the enemy and do not admit that money is the strongest power of the Human heart.

Money has no martyrs. Men and women by the thousands have laid their necks upon the block for the sake of love, patriotism, science, art, fame, etc., but not for money. Men will do wickedness, expose themselves to danger, endure hardship, Judas betrayed his Master for money, but no one has gone to certain death for money, but Peter was crucified head downwards for the love of the Master. Money has had no Martyrs in all the history of the world.

Remember our soldier boys on the battle fields of Europe have written Canada across the pages of the world's history in letters of gold that will never grow dim as long as history lasts, but it was not done for money. I have two boys that are buried in France, killed while serving at the machine guns, and when they enlisted and joined the machine-gun section, they knew when they bid their Mother and sisters good-bye that there was not one chance in ten of them coming back. When they got to the front and saw the awful slaughter they wrote home that life was sweet to them, and they would like to live to come home again, but they were not sorry they enlisted, and if duty demanded they were not afraid to die and were prepared. It was not done for a dollar and ten cents a day, but to make this world a better place to live in. What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul.

So I appeal to all patriotic citizens of all classes to consider Paul's command when he said: "Let each one first consider, not his own, but another's welfare." I also appeal to those who have to endure hardships from high rate of interest. We are told in the Good Book: "He that fails to look after the interests of his own household is worse than an infidel." So if we allow ourselves and those whom it is our duty to protect, to be deprived of the comforts of life by our indifference, we will be damned worse than an unbeliever. It is stated that 350,000 babies die every year in the United States because the parents do not provide proper food, clothing, housing, etc., largely on account of poverty. The Alberta Social League has furnished the following statistics of the infant mortality. Death rate per 1,000 in families living in one room, 210; two rooms, 160; three rooms, 140; four rooms, 100.

Remember, poverty and not shiftlessness is the cause of nearly all this. Well might the Master say: "He that taketh the bread gotten by sweat is like unto him who killeth his neighbor." Now, if every man and woman would interest themselves in this question, the same as they did in the Temperance cause; ask the church to set aside one Sunday in a year to preach on the awful sin of usury, which is a greater sin than intemperance. Send

a delegation to Ottawa, demanding that laws be placed on the statute books making it unlawful for any loan company, bank, or private individual to loan money upon landed security for more than five and one-half per cent. in any part of the Dominion of Canada. Further that a national banking system be established in Canada similar to the New Zealand plan where the government will take the people's money, loan it out to her own citizens at one per cent. of an advance from what the depositors get. Let no one belittle their own influence. Do your own thinking, and not allow yourselves to be influenced by politicians, or professional men. Remember that reforms as a rule do not come from professional men. Premier Dick Sinden that gave New Zealand her advanced legislation had to leave England on account of his activities in the coal miners' union. Will Crooks was a work-house boy. John Burns' mother had to make a living by washing. These men are known all over the British Empire for their great work in helping to make this world a better place to live in.

In closing, I appeal to you in the words of the Poet Longfellow, "In the world's broad fields of battle in the bivouac of life, be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in the strife." Do not forget that Eternal vigilance is the price of Victory.

"THE GREAT CITIZEN"

(Translation of letter from Romain Rolland, on imprisonment of E. D. Morel for sending him his books contrary to Defence of the Realm Regulations. Both Rolland and Morel are great authors.)

Editor, "Revue Mensuelle,"

Geneva.

Dear Editor and Friend:—

I do not know Morel. I have received none of his books said to be sent me during the war.

But from all I know of him, his activity in the cause of humanity previous to the war, his missionary efforts against the crimes of civilization in the Congo, his all too rare articles summarised in reviews, he is a man of great courage, and strong faith, who has dared to serve truth and to serve truth alone, regardless of dangers and hatreds arrayed against him, when truth and country were not one.

Hence he is the successor of all great believers, Christians of early times, reformers of the age of conflict, free spirits of heroic period, all those who have down through the ages put above everything their faith in the truth, divine or secular, always sacred, as it comes to them.

A man like E. D. Morel is a great citizen when he shows his country the errors she commits. It is those who throw a veil over those errors who are either incapable servants or sycophants. Every man of courage, every man of truth honors his country.

The State may strike him if it will, as it struck Socrates, and as it struck so many others to whom it afterwards erects useless statues. The Government is not the country. It is only the Steward, good or bad, as the case may be—always fallible. It has the force; it makes use of it. But ever since man was man this force has always failed at the threshold of a free spirit.

—ROMAIN ROLLAND.

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"WORDS! WORDS!! WORDS!!!!"

At the Calgary Forum recently, some original ideas on the subject of orthographical reform were put forward by Mr. Samuel Polsen. The idea at the bottom of Mr. Polsen's theory, so far as we were able to disentangle it from the maze of verbal camouflage in which he wrapped it, is no doubt valid enough, for nothing can be more self evident that that, to a very considerable extent, current nomenclature no longer corresponds to ideas, many of the phrases now "common in our mouths as household words" having become, to borrow Mr. Winston Churchill's famous euphemism, "terminological inexactitudes."

But the solution of the difficulty offered by Mr. Polsen, ingenious though it may be, seems to us to hardly meet the case, it being, if we grasped it aright, nothing more or less than a suggestion that each individual should be at liberty to adopt the language to his own particular opinions, going so far as to modify even the spelling of the word where the original spelling did not happen to meet the exigencies of the case.

As illustrations of this new linguistic art, Mr. Polsen instanced the word, "God," which he contended should correctly be spelt "good," though later he apparently modified this view in the case of the German "God," which particular deity he preferred to spell, "bad," while after informing his audience that they were all gods in the making, he subsequently reversed the spelling of the word entirely in applying it to one individual who happened to take exception to some of his remarks and spelt it "dog."

Other eccentricities of the Polsenian orthography were "religion," respelt "rely-on," "righteousness" transformed into "right-use-ness," and "at-onement" metamorphosed into "at-one-ment."

This new spelling reform movement certainly opens up a wide field for inventive genius, and in time might result in the creation of a new "Esperanto" or world language, so bringing order out of the chaos existent on this terrestrial globe since the time when our misguided forefathers undertook the building of the Tower of Babel.

It is a matter for regret that Mr. Polsen had not the time at his disposal to carry his idea a step or two further, illustrating its application to some more topical ideas than the somewhat antiquated ones of God and religion, or he might have experimented with such popular terms, for instance, as "democracy" and "patriotism," accommodating the word to the idea to be conveyed, by in the first instance, adopting the revised spelling, "d---mock-racy," and in the case of the second, recognizing

that the short sounding first syllable might lead to an inference that the word was of Irish origin (whereas it is common knowledge that there are no Irish patriots), the word might well, in deference to our profiteers, be broadened out into "pay-triotism."

Speaking of profiteers reminds us that, in any reference to the "law and the prophets," the latter word might better be written Polsenitically, "profits," with which term and the law there seems to be a fairly close connection. Then, again, the word "principle" should undoubtedly be revised to read "principal," recalling Lowell's "Pious Editor's Creed,"—"I don't believe in principle, But, oh, I do, in interest."

The word, "capital," too, may be but a modern corruption of "cop-it-all," or may have come to us, through the German form, "kapital" from the Anglo-Saxon "keep-it-all." Unfortunately, we are unable to conjure up any synonym for "labor," which always was, always is, and, we fear, always will be spelt, "work," and sometimes ends in "work-house."

We have not by any means exhausted the possibilities of Mr. Polsen's ingenious suggestion, but we think we have said enough to commend it to those of our readers who are seeking for new fields of knowledge to conquer, or for subject matter on which to build a new parlor game for winter evenings, somewhat more intellectual than poker, while not quite as exhilarating as bridge or chess.

—SARDONYX.

* * * WHICH ?

M. Boret, the French Minister of Agriculture, states that men have been brought from Africa, China and elsewhere to fill the gaps in the ranks of labor, and that the American army will gradually take the places of older French soldiers who will go back to the land. Last year, the Department recorded 215,000 school children, cultivating over 2,400 acres in 12,000 communes, and raising produce to the value of \$1,250,000. This year efforts will be made to get the majority of the five million school children of France to work in the fields. Just such similar statistics are being quoted from enemy countries. Some call this the patriotism of the children, but should it not be regarded as the sins of the fathers visited upon the children?

* * *

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Our Letter from Home

MARRIAGE AND MOTHERHOOD.

During "Baby Week," which did not help the mothers and babies who need helping at all, Lord Rhondda told us that 2,000 babies die every week under one year, and 3,000 under five years, through carelessness, want of knowledge, and lack of the necessities of life. And no wonder! This, the most enlightened country in the world, at grips with the most savage enemy in the world, requires only one qualification of a woman who wants to be a mother. What do you think it is? Does it require that she is not careless, has no lack of knowledge, or of the necessities of life, to quote Lord Rhondda's words? Does it require that a woman who wants to be a mother must be strong, healthy, capable, educated, wise, sensible, kind, clean, wholesome, patient, "motherly," gentle, loving, tender, or true? Does it say that if she lacks the necessities of life she must do without children until she is sure of those necessities that are so necessary?

Nothing of the sort. In this year of 1918 the only condition laid down is that she must be married!

Did you ever know anything so ridiculous, and so superfluous?

* * *

LADIES AND DRESS.

The rumored appointment of a Dress Controller has frightened some women nearly to death, who declare that a £50 (\$250) yearly limit is absurd. (I'm inclined to agree where flimsy stuffs at a guinea a yard float about in the shop windows.)

Now, Lady Alexander is asking why those ladies should be rationed in clothes who can afford to pay for them adding that if women spent only £50 a year on dress, hundreds of girls would be thrown out of work.

Fancy that old wheeze being trotted out in war-time. Since poor men are giving their lives to win this war, why should not rich women who "can afford" to spend more than £50 a year on dress be taken to the lantern? When they are—and seemingly not before—then those hundreds of girls will be thrown out of that sort of work and given something useful to do instead.

* * *

PEARL NECKS AND NECKLACES.

The pearl necklace business is past mastering. Never having had pearls with which to lace my own neck, I am not adding one to the collection which is to form a necklace to be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund. But, if I had a pearl, I should be puzzled just the same. When all the pearls have been garnered from the stores of the great and rich ladies, from the Queen downwards, who will buy the necklace? Who ought to buy an expensive bauble like that in these times? And, when somebody does buy it with money that ought to have been given long ago to the war loan, who is going to be blamed? Money-hoarding is not yet an illegal offence like food-hoarding, but if that necklace is ever to fetch its price, somebody is 'oarding 'orrible.

* * *

GIVING AND KEEPING.

All this week in which I write, we have been talking about **Tank Millions**. The King started off with an autograph letter (but no offer of money) to the press. One

daily paper set the ball rolling by announcing that it had taken up \$25,000 in Tank Bonds, which seemed to make our poor little pounds look pitifully small. But how much have all these Business People (with thousands and millions to their credit) kept back? Ah! No one need be ashamed of their mite, for "they have given most who have kept back the least."

* * *

FROM THE FRONT.

Anyhow, if I wanted to utter another complaint I couldn't, for Joe Solway, "Somewhere in France," paralyzes my pen. Says he:

"Now, Julia, write of cheerful things, and not only receive the blessings of the boys out here, but of the folk at home. There are April skies and swallows, Blighty lanes and fields, the sea and the birds. The spring won't wait. Turn on the joyful tap and shut off all the others. All the boys out here say the same." Send him a cheerio, eh!

* * *

SOME PHILOSOPHER.

Joe, do you know those heartsome verses of Patrick Chalmers? They tell of a man meeting a painted caravan down a dusty lane, on its way to a fair. The showman was a philosopher, and when asked how things were going in his profession:

"I find, said 'e, things very much as one I've always found, For mostly they goes up and down or else goes round and round. Said 'e, the jobs' the very spit o' what it always were, It's bread and bacon mostly when the dog don't catch a 'are; But looking at it broad, an' while it ain't no merchant king's, What's lost upon the roundabouts we pulls up on the swings.

"E thumped upon the foot-board an' e lumbered on again To meet a gold-dust sunset down the owl light in the lane; And the moon she climbed the 'azels, while a night-jar seemed to spin. That Pharaoh's wisdom o'er again, 'i sooth of lose-and-win; For 'up an' down an' round,' said 'e, 'goes all appointed things! An' losses on the roundabouts means profit on the swings!"

If that doesn't cure "glumpsomeness," what will? Talk about roundabouts!

— JULIA D.

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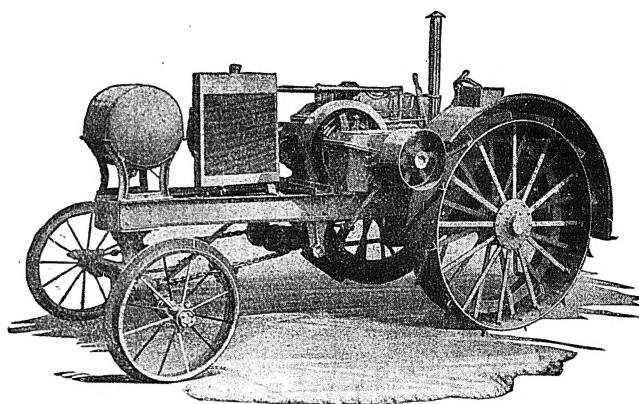
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